

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
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R 300830Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3092

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MUSCAT 0511

STADIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT PFOR MU
SUBJECT: PARM - ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT - PARTS
II AND III

REF: STATE 038356

PART II - RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS

A. STATE. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT SPROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION
CAN BE PURSUED ADEQUEATELY OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WITH NO
INCREASE IN PRESENT STAFF. OUR 11 AMERICAN POSITIONS ARE
SUFFICIENT, THOUGH NOT EXCESSIVE. INCREASED VOLUME OF WORK MAY
BE HEAVIEST ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE/GENERAL SERVICES SIDE FOR
REASONS NOTED BELOW. PRESENTLY AUTHORIZED FSL POSITIONS SHOULD
SUFFICE; OUR PROBLEM IS TO FILL AND KEEP FILLED THOSE NOW
AUTHORIZED, DESPITE VERY SHORT-SKILLED AND COMPETITIVE LOCAL
LABOR MARKET.

1. POLITICAL. THIS FUNCTION IS AT HEART OF POST'S PROPOSED
ACTIONS LEADING TO OBJECTIVES 1,2,5 AND 6 IN PART I. DCM
DOUBLES AS POLITICAL OFFICER, AND AMBASSADOR DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE
TIME TO POLITICAL WORK. THIS SYSTEM WILL CONTINUE.

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2. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL. MOST PROPOSED COURSES OF ACTION LEADING
TO OBJECTIVES 3 AND 4 ARE THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY OF POST'S
SINGLE E/C OFFICER. IT IS A HEAVY BURDEN BUT CAN CONTINUE TO
BE BORNE, ESPECIALLY AS MOST SIGNS POINT TO A CONTINUATION
OF NORMAL RATHER THAN EXTREME GROWTH IN THE ECONOMY, UMPORT
TRADE AND GENERAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN OMAN.

3. CONSULAR. THE EXISTING COMPLEMENT PERMITS SATISFACTORY COVERAGE OF CONSULAR SERVICES, AND WORKLOAD IS NOT EXPECTED TO INCREASE ABNORMALLY. WE WILL BE DEVOTING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BROADENING FSL CONSULAR SKILLS, AND TO REDUCING OVERALL PROCESSING TIME OF IMMIGRANT VISA CASES (ASSUMING THE HELP OF EMBASSY KUWAIT WHICH ISSUES THEM).

4. ADMINISTRATIVE. OVER A THIRD OF MUSCAT'S AMERICAN POSITIONS AND ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF OUR FSL STRENGTH PERFORM ADMIN FUNCTIONS OF VARIOUS KINDS. THE POST RECENTLY PROPOSED REDESIGNATION OF ONE AMERICAN OFFICER POSITION FROM BUDGET AND FISCAL OFFICER TO GENERAL SERVICES/B&F OFFICER, WITH A COMPLETE SHIFT TO GSO IF THE REGIONAL B&F CONCEPT IS IMPLEMENTED. THIS REFLECTS ACTUAL DUTIES ASSIGNED TO THE INCUMBENT AND ALSO THE ANTICIPATED INCREASED FY-78 VOLUME OF WORK OCCASIONED BY (A) OUR NEED TO CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS SO THAT SENSIBLE DECISIONS ON FUTURE CHANCERY/COM RESIDENCE LOCATIONS CAN BE MADE BY NEXT WINTER, AND (B) OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE BRINGING STAFF HOUSING UP TO STANDARD NOW THAT SUITABLE APARTMENTS ARE BEING BUILT HERE.

5. SUMMARIZING, APART FROM THE REDESIGNATION IN A-4 ABOVE, WE DO NOT PROPOSE ORGANIZATIONAL RESTRUCTURING TO PROGRESS TOWARD OUR OBJECTIVES.

B. OTHER AGENCIES

1. THE PEACE CORPS HAS A VERY GOOD RECORD HERE, RELATES DIRECTLY TO OBJECTIVES 2 AND 3, AND IS ABOUT THE ONLY IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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COUNTRY U.S.-FUNDED PROGRAM ASSET WE HAVE SEEN ITS EXISTENCE# HAS PROVEN THAT A SHARP GROWTH IN VOLUNTEER NUMBERS IS IMPRACTICAL DUE MAINLY TO ABSORPTION PROBLEMS IN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES. ASSUMING FRUITION OF STEPS ALREADY DECIDED, THERE WILL BE ABOUT 32 VOLUNTEERS IN OMAN BY DECEMBER 1977, MOSTLY IN HEALTH SPECIALITIES WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING RUNNING SECOND. THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS PEACE CORPS FORWARD PLANNING FOR 35-40 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS BY FY-79. AGRICULTURAL SPECIALITIES SHOULD BE INCREASED PROVIDED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PROVES CAPABLE OF PLACING AND SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS, WHICH IS QUESTIONABLE. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE GONE FOUR MONTHS WITHOUT A PERMANENT PC DIRECTOR, A SEVERE HANDICAP IN RELATIONS WITH PARTICIPATING OMAN GOV MINISTRIES. WASHINGTON ACTION IS SOLICITED TO ENSURE THIS IMPORTANT SLOT IS FILLED SOON.

2. OUR FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY IN ITS BEST SHAPE FOR A YEAR, SIMPLY BECAUSE ALL THREE SLOTS ARE FILLED. ASSUMING THE TWO NEW INCUMBENTS COMPLETE THEIR SETTLING-IN PROCESS SUCCESSFULLY, AND

IF OMAN'S UNDERSECRETARY FOR CIVIL AVIATION AGREES TO THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 1977-79, THE FAA IMAGE HERE SHOULD IMPROVE AND ITS PROGRAM WILL CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANTLY TO OBJECTIVES 2 AND 3. PROGRAM STANDS TO BENEFIT GREATLY IF THE IV TRIP OF UNDERSECRETARY SALIM BIN NASSIR, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1977, IS GIVEN PROPER BACKSTOPPING BY FAA AND STATE.

3. AID PARTICIPATION IN OMAN THROUGH FOSTERING OF NEW REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL PROGRAMS IS WELCOMED BY EMBASSY. THIS WILL NOT INVOLVE RESIDENT AID PRESENCE AT THE POST. AGRICULTURE AND FISHING SEEM THE AREAS OF GREATEST PROMISE FOR THESE PROGRAMS, BUT AGAIN MUCH WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THE MINISTRY CONCERNED PROVES ABLE TO SUPPORT THEM SUBSTANTIVELY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY.

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED.
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PART III - STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

A. WE HAVE NO REPROGRAMMING PROPOSALS EXCEPT FOR REDESIGNATION ONE POSITION EXPLAINED IN A-4 ABOVE, NOR INCREASE/DECREASE REQUESTS. ALL PRESENT EMBASSY POSITIONS

ARE REGARDED AS NECESSARY TO FULFILL MISSION OBJECTIVES.

5. BELOW IS OUR CURRENT FY-77 MISSION STAFFING CHART. NO CHANGE IS PROJECTED FOR FY-79 EXCEPT FOR AN INCREASE IN PEACE CORPS STAFF (VOLUNTEERS) FROM 27 TO APPROXIMATELY 35-40.

MISSION STAFFING CHART
CURRENT FY-77

AGENCY	AMERICAN	AMERICAN	FSL	FSL
FUNCTION	OFFICERS	STAFF	PROFESS-	STAFF
	IONALS			

STATE				
EXECUTIVE	2A	1	1	1
POLITICAL		1		
ECON/COMM	1	1B	1	
CONSULAR	1		-	
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ADMIN C	2		2	5D
COMMUNI-	2			
CATIONS				
PEACE				
CORPS	2E	27	2E	
USIA F				

A BOTH ALSO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL MATTERS.
B ALSO FUNCTIONS AS A SECRETARY IN THE EXECUTIVE SECTION
C ALL ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS ARE CORE
D 4 FSL POSITIONS ARE CURRENTLY VACANT:

1 - EXECUTIVE PROFESSIONAL
1 - EXECUTIVE STAFF
2 - ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
5 ONLY ONE POSITION IN EACH COLUMN IS CURRENTLY FILLED
6 A USIA OFFICER ASSIGNED IN ABU DHABI IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR OMAN, AND VISITS PERIODICALLY.
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